

Academic Team meet those achievements and dreams.●

50th ANNIVERSARY OF WORLD MEDICAL RELIEF, INC.

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I would like to congratulate World Medical Relief, Inc. for 50 years of distinguished service to needy individuals in the United States and around the world. On March 8, 2003, staff members, supporters, and beneficiaries of World Medical Relief, Inc. services will gather in my home state of Michigan for the "Miracles of Mercy Gala 2003." This event will commemorate the commitment and dedication that World Medical Relief, Inc. has provided to the sick and needy.

For 50 years, World Medical Relief, Inc. has been a driving force for medical support both in my home state of Michigan and internationally. It is noteworthy that the success and accomplishments of this program today are in part the direct result of the unwavering devotion of founder Irene M. Auberlin. The hard work and perseverance of Mrs. Auberlin is now reflected by the many individuals and groups that continue to provide assistance to those most in need.

Today, the program serves over 1,500 people in the metropolitan Detroit area and 125 nations worldwide. I would like to congratulate William N. Genematas for receiving this year's Irene M. Auberlin Service Above Self Award for his long-time dedication to World Medical Relief, Inc. I also would like to commend both the Ford Motor Company Fund for its continued support of the Senior Prescription Program and the Christian Association of Medical Mission for their international aid efforts in developing nations. World Medical Relief, Inc. and its members deserve both our respect and gratitude.

I am sure that my colleagues in the Senate will join me in offering our congratulations to World Medical Relief, Inc. and its members as they celebrate 50 years of distinguished service.●

THE HEROIC EFFORTS OF BILL CARR AND JEFF KEEZER

● Mr. NELSON of Nebraska. Mr. President, today it is my great honor to recognize the valiant efforts of two volunteer firefighters from Ainsworth, NE.

Mr. Bill Carr and Mr. Jeff Keezer of the Ainsworth Volunteer Firefighter Department were instrumental in the April 22, 2002 rescue attempt of Timothy Culpepper, a digital communications worker who was stranded more than one thousand one hundred feet in the air when a fifteen hundred foot telecommunications tower he was working on partially collapsed near Bassett, NE.

When a wire snapped disabling and stranding Mr. Culpepper, several agencies, including the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency, were called upon for the dangerous rescue

mission. However, upon arriving at the scene, response teams realized they were ill-equipped to perform the high-altitude rescue.

Bill Carr, a carpenter and married father of three, had spent many summers during college painting tall communications towers. Jeff Keezer, a married father of one, works for a steel company that erects hundred-foot grain elevators. Though these experiences could not have adequately prepared them for this dangerous and technically challenging rescue. They quickly volunteered to help.

With no regard for their personal safety, Mr. Carr and Mr. Keezer, armed only with estimations of the exact height of the stranded worker, began to make the physically challenging two-hour ascent to rescue the man who was hanging only by a harness. Carrying bundles of rope and heavy rescue equipment, these brave firefighters, along with a handful on colleagues from the Lincoln Fire Department, scaled the tower amid 30-mph winds and with dwindling daylight. Upon reaching Mr. Culpepper it was discovered that tragically he did not survive the impact of tumbling debris.

Mr. Carr and two other firefighters managed to scale the total distance to Mr. Culpepper in ninety minutes while Mr. Keezer, with heavy rescue equipment on his back, and two other firefighters scaled to the half-way point to manage the recovery effort and descent that lasted more than 3 hours.

Unfortunately these two brave and selfless first-responders were omitted from an award ceremony in Washington, D.C. on February 14. Though the Department of Justice didn't recognize their efforts, Mr. Carr and Mr. Keezer can forever hold their heads high knowing their bravery and the fabric of their character has made all Nebraskans, and especially their neighbors in Ainsworth, proud of their actions.

Mr. President, heroism comes in many forms and the courage displayed by Mr. Carr and Mr. Keezer with danger present is a shining example. Nebraskans like Mr. Carr and Mr. Keezer are selfless, honorable and just and they are what makes living in Nebraska living "the good life."

I am proud to represent Nebraskans like Mr. Carr and Mr. Keezer who are committed public servants. Volunteer services are an essential part of small-town America. Without the brave and selfless efforts of everyday citizens like Mr. Keezer and Mr. Carr, many rural communities would lack vital protection and security. The city of Ainsworth and the state of Nebraska are fortunate to have courageous citizens like Jeff Keezer and Bill Carr. These men are true heroes.●

NEW REVOLVER TOO BIG FOR "DIRTY" HARRY

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I want to bring to the attention of my colleagues

an article from the February 14, 2003, Los Angeles Times entitled "New Revolver Too Big For 'Dirty' Harry." The article discusses a new .50 caliber handgun manufactured by the Smith and Wesson Corporation. The 500 model, the biggest handgun currently in production, is 15 inches long, weighs 4.5 pounds, and uses a .50 caliber Magnum Smith and Wesson bullet that packs a muzzle force of 2,600 foot-pounds. The bullet is half an inch wide and is more powerful than comparable ammunition because it is much longer and contains more gun powder.

According to a Violence Policy Center expert cited in the article, the gun's cartridge has about twice the muzzle energy of most rounds for common semiautomatic assault weapons, such as the AR-15, a civilian version of the military's M-16. In fact, the new gun packs a punch powerful enough to stop a charging bear in its tracks.

A Smith and Wesson representative acknowledges that the company hopes the gun will help Smith and Wesson win back market share lost when the company agreed to a number of steps to improve gun safety and keep guns out of the hands of criminals. Smith and Wesson's decision to produce the .50 caliber handgun represents a step backward in the effort to improve gun safety. Not only has the company apparently scrapped its plan to work with the federal government to take sensible steps to make guns safer and keep guns from getting into the wrong hands, but the company seems to be headed in the opposite direction by creating a handgun that is reported to have double the power of most assault rifles.

Last year, I cosponsored the Military Sniper Weapon Regulation Act, a bill which would change the way .50 caliber sniper rifles are regulated by placing them under the requirements of the National Firearms Act. This bill would subject the sniper rifles to the same regimen of registration and background checks as other weapons of war, such as machine guns.

Unfortunately, the new Smith and Wesson .50 caliber handgun would not be affected by this legislation. However, both the .50 caliber handgun and sniper rifle are simply too powerful to be on the streets. Congress must take a long, hard look at these potentially lethal weapons.

[From the L.A. Times, Feb. 14, 2003]

A POWERFUL NEW REVOLVER IS DRAWING FIRE ALREADY

(By Ralph Frammolino and Steve Berry)

Even the most ardent firearm lovers acknowledge that Smith & Wesson's new .50-caliber Magnum revolver is more gun than anyone needs.

It has double the power of most assault rifles in America. Its kick can send a grown man reeling; a single bullet can drop a grizzly. It is so heavy and long that police say no criminal would dare try to hide it in his waistband. It will cost as much \$989.

And gun buyers across the country can't wait to get their hands on it.

"The initial reaction has been even stronger than we had anticipated, so we're ramping